

# Portland Labor Press

Published every Thursday by the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity under the direction of the following Board of Control: E. L. Rector, president, representing Building Trades Council; A. W. Lawrence, secretary, representing Printing Trades Council; Wm. Mackenzie, representing Metal Trades Council; W. E. Nolan, representing Water Front Council; O. D. Forte, representing Brewery Trades Council. Board meets first and third Mondays at the Labor Press office, Labor Temple, at 8 p. m.

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Thursday, March 21, 1912

If you need a man to do work of any kind, send word to the Shop Federation, Room 500 Labor Temple, fifth floor, 270 1/2 Alder street.

### THE PATHWAY.

(Nine Lane-Finch.)  
Just she and I together,  
Always hand in hand,  
Down life's luckless pathway,  
That leads to Nameless Land.

It has been steep and stony,  
Seldom smooth and cool,  
Where we could stop by the wayside  
To drink from a crystal pool.

But we have dragged along;  
Managed it somehow,  
And now we've reached the summit,  
And started over the brow.

Don't look so awful invitin',  
But down we've got to go  
Until we reach the bottom;  
For it is written so.

Just she and I together,  
Always hand in hand,  
A-helpin' each other over the rocks,  
On the road to Nameless Land.

The Socialists are going to tackle the land question through the initiative, so it is reported. Go to it, boys! No matter if you do attempt to drive the thick end of the wedge in first, the log will be split in time.

The men who gather the advertising, not the men who gather the news, run the big daily. And the big advertisers are the special privileged corporations. That is why there is so much sawdust and so little mill feed in the dope of the big daily.

There should be something done to restrain the public authorities from allowing extras on contracts. The extras are often more than the original contract, especially as regards profits and "squeeze" all down the line. Cut it out with an edict from the people.

There is such a thing as going too far with the short ballot. It is too long now, but there is no need of shortening it until there is none. In Boston a mayor elected for eight years and can only be recalled on a two years' notice. Why not eighty years on a ten years' notice? That would be a short ballot, all right.

The trades union movement is a protest against unlimited commercial greed and avarice; it is a barrier against the unrestricted exploitation of the mother and child, for the benefit of the few and to the detriment of the many. It is a barrier against grinding poverty, long hours of toil and starvation wages; it is a barrier against the degradation of the wage earner to a state of servitude.

### ABSOLUTE JUSTICE.

President Taft declares that with the recall in operation "the disposition of weak judges would be to follow popular demand rather than the demand of absolute justice."

It requires an exceeding amount of blindness to assume in good faith that judges who are not swayed by popular demand are swayed by the demand of absolute justice. If they are it is difficult to see what becomes of the claim that judges are in duty bound to follow the law as they find it. Just as often as not the law as they find it, is the exact opposite of absolute justice.

A judge who can be swayed by fear of public opinion can be swayed by more objectionable influences if public opinion should be as powerless as Mr. Taft wants it to be. Weak judges can be swayed by bribes or other appeals to their selfish interests. It would be much better that fear of public opinion be the controlling influence over a judge sure to be subject to

influences of some kind than that corrupt private influences should be at work on him.

President Taft was once on the bench himself and rendered quite satisfactory service to monopolistic interests, especially to railroads during labor troubles. Popular demand was in no position to sway him. Does he think he would have decided differently had he been subject to the recall? There were other interests than those of the public to be served. Such appointments as a governorship of island possessions, cabinet positions, prospective supreme court vacancies and other coveted honors were in the hands, not of the people, but of those whom powerful private interests could easily reach. President Taft surely does not want any one to believe that these interests swayed him. Does he claim to be of stronger fiber than his former colleagues on the bench? If so, then he must admit that there is urgent need of some control, other than that of private interests, over them. If not, then there is no escape from inferences concerning him that need not be expressed.

### SINGLE TAX AT GRANGE.

Wednesday afternoon the Pomona (county) Grange met at Evening Star hall on the Section Line road to consider the question of single tax. The affirmative was presented first by W. S. U'Ren, followed by H. G. Starkweather for the negative. N. G. Heddin assisted on the affirmative and E. J. Palmer on the negative.

The large hall was crowded, and at the close of the two hours in debate Mr. U'Ren was kept on the floor for over an hour answering questions. The presentation of the purely fiscal side of the matter was dwelt on, but the moral side was also presented. The audience was clearly prejudiced against the new measure proposed, but the result of the afternoon's meeting was certainly beneficial to the advancement of the single tax.

### OPPOSED TO WORKING PEOPLE.

The anti-suffrage women who appeared before the Ohio constitutional convention explained that they were in favor of "limited suffrage." In answer to questions they explained that the suffrage should not be granted to "working people of foreign extraction." The working people and their friends were intensely disgusted, and thus it was that the committee recommended equal suffrage. The la-h-de-dah woman who opposed equal suffrage is always snifering when in the presence of "working people," foreign and otherwise, although many of them are but one generation removed from the emigrant ship.

### KICKS FROM BOTH SIDES.

It is silly to try to couple up the I. W. W. with organized labor. These gentlemen of the I. W. W. curse the labor unions with a vehemence only equaled by the Employers' Association gentry. Their language is a little more lurid and more publicly expressed, but the sentiments are as strongly worded as the speaker knows how. According to the ideas of many opponents of labor unions, any critics of conditions as they are is a labor union man. According to others of the I. W. W. stripe a man with a union card is an "aristocrat of labor" and of no earthly good to anybody but the capitalistic class.

### ALL THREE!

Organized labor in Oregon is bewildered by its friends running for U. S. Senator. Bourne, the champion of the initiative and statement No. 1, whose millions of speeches largely helped to win Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona and Missouri for the rule of the people; Selling, who has always played fair with organized labor in his building enterprises and in other ways; Lane, whose course has always been straightforward and square, and as mayor an unhesitating supporter of free speech. Would that all three of them could be there!

### FIGHTING SWEATSHOP GOODS.

Washington—The Consumers' League recently held its second exhibition of sweatshop goods in order that the people of Washington may become familiar with the conditions under which these articles are manufactured. One of the conspicuous articles on exhibition was a willow plume of immense proportion, the regular charge of a milliner being about \$25. The knots in this plume numbered 3,078 and the tenement lot who tied the knots was paid 78 cents for its labor. Many other similar pieces of work were shown.

### MUSICIANS TO ERECT TEMPLE.

Joplin, Mo.—The Missouri Trades Unionist, published at Joplin, Mo., is authority for the statement that the Musicians' Union of that city has decided to erect a musicians' temple to cost \$25,000.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

### Reports Against Taylor System.

Washington—Congressman W. B. Wilson, labor's able champion in the House of Representatives, and chairman of the House labor committee, has just presented to the House an unfavorable report against the Taylor and other systems of shop management. The report of the committee is unanimous and will be of inestimable value to the working people of our country. Under the guidance of Chairman Wilson a thorough and comprehensive study of efficiency systems was made. The report handles the subject in a vigorous manner, going to the root of the subject, one portion of which is hereby reproduced, its philosophy being unassailable: "There is a margin between the work performed by the loafer and the maximum task for a man, and in that margin lies a proper day's work. What constitutes a reasonable day's work can only be determined by practical experience and intelligent observation. It cannot be wholly determined by a stop watch or any other time-measuring instrument used only for a brief period of time. By the stopwatch you may be able to determine the time in which a piece of work can be done, but you do not thereby alone determine the length of time in which it ought to be done. The time study of the operations of any machine can be made with a reasonable degree of accuracy, because all of the elements can be taken into consideration in making the computation. A machine is an inanimate thing—it has no life, no brain, no sentiment, and no place in the social order. With a workman it is different. He is a living, moving, sentient, social being; he is entitled to all the rights, privileges, opportunities and respectful consideration given to other men. He would be less than a man if he did not resent the introduction of any system which deals with him in the same way as a beast of burden or an inanimate machine. In making a time study of the operations of a workman, all of the elements cannot be taken into consideration and consequently the computation cannot be made with mathematical accuracy. There is no work that can be performed or that is performed, that is not preceded by a mental process on the part of the workman. The more skill needed in the work, the greater the mental process which precedes the expression of it. So far as your committee has been able to learn, there is no method known to scientific management by which a time study can be made of the mental process preceding the physical act. The elements of the mental process not being susceptible of determination by a stopwatch time study, the study of itself must consequently be inaccurate and the workmen are justified in objecting to such a time study being used as a basis upon which to compute their day's work and compensation when in their judgment injustice is done them thereby."

### Loophole in Immigration Bill.

Senate Bill No. 3175, entitled "To regulate the immigration of aliens and the residence of aliens in the United States," provides a loophole whereby Chinese can enter this country without let or hindrance. The American Federation of Labor submitted the bill to its attorneys for an opinion as to its meaning and in reply the attorneys in substance state, "That if the pending bill becomes operative in its present form the right of Chinese to come to this country will be absolutely unrestricted." Upon receiving this opinion objection was filed with the immigration committee of the Senate, protesting against the provisions contained in the bill which would permit the indiscriminate immigration of Chinese.

### Against Eight-Hour Day.

A number of firms and corporations which furnish the government with various kinds of supplies, which would eventually come under the operation of the eight-hour law, have appeared before the Senate labor committee, protesting against the passage of the eight-hour law. The bill now before the Senate committee passed the House some weeks ago. The gist of the argument presented by these firms was that it would be extremely difficult for the government to get bids if the eight-hour day was inaugurated. This view has already proven to be fallacious.

### Revises Estimates.

Secretary Meyer appeared before the naval affairs committee of the House and admitted that some of the figures in the construction estimate submitted a year ago on battleships were incorrect, and requested to withdraw the estimate. This request came after a continuation of examination into the report of civilian experts, who declared the navy yards could be more economically operated by skilled constructors than by line officers.

### To Value Railroads.

Chairman Adamson, of the House commerce committee, has introduced a bill providing for the valuation of all the common carriers of the United States by the Interstate Commerce Commission, to discover the original investment and its growth. If the bill passes, holding companies and every modern industrial organization would be investigated.

### Pension for Injured Clerks.

A bill providing for the pensioning of civil service employees who are injured in line of service has been introduced by Congressman Howland, of Ohio. The measure provides that all employees mak-

ing less than \$3,000 per annum, as well as employees of the Isthmian Canal and Panama Railway and Steamship line, shall be compensated at stated rates for injury or death while in such employment. The secretary of commerce and labor is given the right to determine whether or not the complaint for pension is entitled to compensation. The measure has been referred to the judiciary committee.

### Referred to Labor Committee.

The bill, H. R. 21094, to create a commission on industrial relations, on motion of Mr. Hughes, of New Jersey, was taken from the committee on rules and referred to the committee on labor by unanimous consent.

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## UNFAIR BARS

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- Hofbrau Bar, 128 Sixth.
- Louvre Bar, Fourth and Alder.
- Perkins Hotel Bar, Fifth and Washington.
- Northern Bar, Geo. Schultz, Prop., Fifth and Washington.

One of the papers for the Employers' Association advertises these "open" shop bars as life-savers.

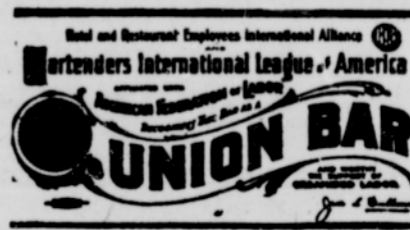
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